

Intergenerational Cleanup
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The idea of our community's youth coming together to help their older neighbors is beginning to grow in Oneida County through the Intergenerational Clean Up Project. This intergenerational initiative spearheaded by the Oneida County Youth Bureau and Oneida County Office for the Aging/Continuing Care took place during the weekend of October 24th and 25th and assisted nearly 90 older Oneida County residents. More than 300 young volunteers were recruited through connections made by the Oneida County Youth Bureau and were matched with individuals who needed assistance with yard work. The Intergenerational Fall Cleanup Weekend was the second event performed as a joint effort between the two County departments. Last spring nearly 60 seniors were assisted by over 100 young volunteers during Intergenerational Spring Clean Up in April.

Because there are so many unmet needs of older persons living alone and struggling to maintain their homes, along with the success of this volunteer initiative, the Youth Bureau and Office for the Aging/Continuing Care plan to make this an ongoing spring and fall program. This not only helps get much needed yard work done, it also enables both young and older participants to have an opportunity to meet and get acquainted with one another. Intergenerational Spring Cleanup is scheduled for the weekend of April 24th and 25th 2010.

Organizations involved in volunteering included Clinton High School; Hamilton College Girls Basketball Team; Mohawk Valley Community College Habitat for Humanity;

Mohawk Valley Community College Latino Student Union; Mohawk Valley Community College Phi Theta Kappa Society; Mohawk Valley Community College Welders Among Communities; New Hartford High School Students Against Drunk Driving; New York Mills High School; Notre Dame High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team; Oneida Youth Inc.; Oriskany High School Key Club and Student Council; Proctor High School Key Club; Proctor High School Student Council; Proctor High School Young Scholar Program; Proctor High School Youth Construction Initiative Program; Remsen High School government students; Rome Free Academy NJROTC Unit; Slavic Pentecostal Youth Organization; Utica College Black Student Union; Utica College Physical Therapy Society; Vernon-Verona Sherrill High School Interact Club; Vernon-Verona Sherrill High School National Honor Society; Westmorland High School Students Against Drunk Driving; and Whitesboro High School International Club. Organizations who made financial donations were American Legion Smith Post, Rome; Ukrainian American Veterans Club, Rome; and Utica Rotary Club

Intergenerational Spring and Fall Cleanup is much more than a yard clean up program. It's helping bring a culture of volunteerism and community engagement into our community to help those most in need. For more information on this program call Oneida County Youth Bureau at 798-5027 or Oneida County Office for the Aging/Continuing Care at 798-5456.